

Section 17 Weapon

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Firearm information known: FKnown

Name	Definition
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FKnown	Indicates available information about the physical characteristics of the gun
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Uses

This variable is used as a stem question to flag incidents in which no gun information is available. If no information is available, the remaining firearm variables will be unknown or not applicable as appropriate.

Discussion

If a death investigator within the agency has viewed or examined the gun itself or a bullet, or spent casing from the gun and has additional information about the weapon, answer “Yes”. If the only additional information available about the gun is based on a statement from a witness (e.g., a bystander who witnessed a homicide told police they thought the gun looked like a revolver), do not answer “Yes”. The additional information must be based on a death investigator viewing physical evidence.

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field length	Priority	Primacy
Fknown	Firearm information known:	Weapon	Checkbox	1	LR/LR/LR	LAB/CME/PR

Response Options:

Fknown

0 No, Not Collected, Not Available, Unknown

1 Yes

Data Standards or Guidelines

NVISS

EVIDENCE RECOVERED

Gun recovered: GunRec

Bullet recovered: Bullet

Casing recovered: CaseRem

Name	Definition
GunRec	Firearm has been viewed, examined, or logged into evidence by investigator
Bullet	Bullet has been viewed, examined, or logged into evidence by investigator
CaseRem	Cartridge has been viewed, examined, or logged into evidence by investigator

Uses

Data on the type of firearm physical evidence (bullets vs. cartridges) can be useful in assessing the degree of confidence one can put in the information gathered about firearm characteristics.

Discussion

“Recovered” evidence is that which an investigator within the agency has either viewed, examined, or logged as evidence. The examiner need not have physical custody of the evidence (e.g., code “GunRec” as “yes” if, for example, a coroner’s deputy viewed a suicide gun at the death scene but left the gun with the family). Bullets count as evidence if they were retrieved from the victim or the crime scene and were clearly used during the incident (e.g., a bullet lodged in the wall behind a victim with a through-and-through wound). Pellets retrieved from a shotgun wound count as a recovered bullet. Consider only spent casings that are believed to be from the injury gun as recovered casings.

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field length	Priority	Primacy
GunRec	Gun recovered:	Weapon	Checkbox	1	O/O/O	LAB/CME/PR
Bullet	Bullet recovered:	Weapon	Checkbox	1	O/O/O	LAB/CME/PR
CaseRem	Casing recovered:	Weapon	Checkbox	1	O/O/O	LAB/CME/PR

Response Options:

GunRec through CaseRem

0 No, Not Collected, Not Available, Unknown

1 Yes

Firearm type: FType**Other firearm type text: TyTxt****Name Definition**

FType	Specific type of firearm used to inflict injury
TyTxt	Free text field to indicate type of firearm if FType is coded as “other”

Uses

Data on firearm type are used to describe the injury-producing event and to document the extent to which handguns, long guns, and automatic weapons are involved in gun deaths.

Discussion

The Firearm Type code list is the standard used by the National Crime Information Center. It is very detailed, and many abstractors will not have the technical expertise to know, for example, whether a shotgun is a pump action or bolt action based on reading the gun’s make and model. In such cases, use the Unknown Type option.

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field length	Priority	Primacy
FType	Firearm type:	Weapon	Number	2	LR/LR/LR	LAB/CME/PR
TyTxt	Other firearm type text:	Weapon	Text	30	O/O/O	LAB/CME/PR

Response Options:**FType**

- 1 Submachine Gun
- 2 Handgun, Unknown Type
- 3 Handgun, Pistol- Bolt Action
- 4 Handgun, Pistol- Derringer
- 5 Handgun, Pistol- Single Shot
- 6 Handgun, Pistol- Semi-automatic
- 7 Handgun, Revolver
- 8 Rifle, Unknown Type
- 9 Rifle, Automatic
- 10 Rifle, Bolt Action
- 11 Rifle, Lever Action
- 12 Rifle, Pump Action
- 13 Rifle, Semi-automatic
- 14 Rifle, Single Shot
- 15 Rifle-Shotgun Combination
- 16 Shotgun, Unknown Type
- 17 Shotgun, Automatic
- 18 Shotgun, Bolt Action
- 19 Shotgun, Double Barrel (Over/Under, Side by Side)
- 20 Shotgun, Pump Action
- 21 Shotgun, Semi-automatic
- 22 Shotgun, Single Shot

- 23 Long gun, Unknown type
- 24 Gun, Unknown type
- 66 Other (e.g., handmade gun)
- 99 Unknown

TyTxt

Data Standards or Guidelines

National Crime Information Center coding system

Make or NCIC code: Make

Other firearm make text: MkTxt

Name	Definition
Make	Manufacturer of the firearm used to inflict the injury
MkTxt	Text field to indicate manufacturer of the firearm if “Make” is coded as “other”.

Uses

Data on the make of the firearm are used to identify the manufacturers of firearms used in fatalities.

Discussion

This data element uses 3-character manufacturer codes developed by the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. A code list covering make and model is supplied in a separate document in the software’s Help utility, and is also available at www.vendata.com. An update of the NVDRS software will include a drop-down list for the NCIC make codes. If a manufacturer does not appear in the code list, enter the manufacturer in “MkTxt”.

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field length	Priority	Primacy
Make	Make or NCIC code:	Weapon	Text	3	LR/LR/LR	LAB/CME/PR
MkTxt	Other firearm make text: Weapon		Text	40	O/O/O	LAB/CME/PR

Response Options:

Make

MkTxt

Data Standards or Guidelines

National Crime Information Center Code Manual. Version 7th Edition, December 1998.
Vendata Inc., info@vendata.com.

Firearm model: Model**Firearm model text: MoTxt**

Name	Definition
Model	Model of the firearm that was used to inflict the injury
MoTxt	Free text field to indicate model of the firearm if Model was coded as “other”

Uses

Data on the model of the firearm are used to identify the models used in gun deaths. Because pieces of legislation in various jurisdictions have outlawed the production, sale, and importation of particular classes of guns (e.g., so-called “assault” weapons or “junk guns”) by features of the gun or by listing particular models, this variable can help to identify models affected by legislation.

Discussion

These data elements are coded using a list of models (sorted by manufacturer) included in the software’s Help utility. A combination of make and model must be used to uniquely identify the model. Some models are made by more than one manufacturer. If a specific model is not known, choose unknown. Capitalize all text, avoid using dashes and decimals, and omit spaces. Completely spell out the models name; do not use abbreviations.

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field length	Priority	Primacy
Model	Firearm model:	Weapon	Text	40	LR/LR/LR	LAB/CME/PR
MoTxt	Firearm model text:	Weapon	Text	40	O/O/O	LAB/CME/PR

Response Options:

Model

MoTxt

CALIBER

Cartridge specification: Cartr

Firearm caliber: Calib

Firearm gauge: Gauge

Name	Definition
Cartr	Cartridge type of recovered cartridge
Calib	Caliber of the firearm used to inflict the injury
Gauge	Gauge of firearm used to inflict the injury

Uses

These data can be used to identify trends in smaller- and larger-caliber weapons use. They may be useful (when coupled with data on nonfatal injuries) for assessing case fatality rates by certain weapon and ammunition classes.

Discussion

These variables are designed to capture the caliber or estimated caliber of the firearm used in the fatal event. The codes correspond to calibers, measured in fractions of an inch or in millimeters, or gauges in the case of shotguns. In addition, a free text field captures the cartridge specification (when available). Recovered cartridge casings, the firearm itself, and the bullet are sources for indicating or estimating the firearm caliber.

Some firearms will fire more than one type of cartridge. For example, firearms designed to fire the .357 Magnum will also fire .38 (Smith & Wesson) Special cartridges. Unless a cartridge casing is recovered, it may be impossible to tell which cartridge type was involved in the incident. Consequently, this field should be coded from cartridge casings when they are available, from the markings stamped onto the firearm when cartridge casings are not recovered, and from recovered bullets when neither a casing nor a firearm is recovered. A special code (38357) has been created for cases when a bullet has been recovered and the absence of a cartridge or firearm makes it impossible to determine the difference between a .38 or a .357.

Calib (caliber): The caliber of a rifle or handgun is the diameter of the bore before the rifling grooves were cut. Caliber may also be given in terms of bullet, land, or groove diameter. In some cases, the caliber specification associated with particular cartridge types is neither accurate nor consistent. For example, the caliber of the .38 Special cartridge is actually .357, not .38 as the cartridge type suggests.

Gauge: The term “gauge” is used to describe the size of the bore of a shotgun. The term refers to the number of lead balls of the given bore diameter that make up a pound. In a 12-gauge, for example, it takes 12 bore-diameter lead balls to make up a pound. The most common exception to this nomenclature is the .410, which has a bore diameter of 0.410 inches.

Cartridge: Cartridge types are commonly expressed in calibers (fractions of an inch), or in millimeters. In some cases, the same cartridge has both an English and Metric type designation. For example, the .308 Winchester is also known as the 7.62 X 51mm NATO (Vendata 1999). The former designation is typically stamped onto weapons originally designed for civilian use, whereas the latter designation is common on weapons designed for military use. Record whichever caliber is stamped on the firearm or the base of the cartridge casing. Conventionally, weapon manufacturers name cartridge types they develop after the company. Care should be taken not to confuse the manufacturer associated with a cartridge type with the make of the firearm. For example, the .38 Smith & Wesson (S&W) Special cartridge was developed by Smith & Wesson, but many companies manufacture weapons chambered for this cartridge type (Vendata 1999).

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field length	Priority	Primacy
Cartr	Cartridge specification:	Weapon	Text	40	O/O/O	LAB/CME/PR
Calib	Firearm caliber:	Weapon	Number	4	LR/LR/LR	LAB/CME/PR
Gauge	Firearm gauge:	Weapon	Number	3	LR/LR/LR	LAB/CME/PR

Response Options:

Cartr

Calib

556 5.56 millimeters
6 6 millimeters
635 6.35 millimeters
65 6.5 millimeters
7 7 millimeters
735 7.35 millimeters
75 7.5 millimeters
762 7.62 millimeters
763 7.63 millimeters
765 7.65 millimeters
8 8 millimeters
9 9 millimeters
10 10 millimeters
11 11 millimeters
17 .17 inches
22 .22 inches
221 .221 inches
222 .222 inches
223 .223 inches
243 .243 inches
25 .25 inches
250 .250 inches
256 .256 inches
257 .257 inches
264 .264 inches
270 .270 inches

Weapon/CME

280	.280 inches
284	.284 inches
30	.30 inches
300	.300 inches
303	.303 inches
308	.308 inches
32	.32 inches
338	.338 inches
35	.35 inches
351	.351 inches
357	.357 inches
36	.36 inches
375	.375 inches
38	.38 inches
380	.380 inches
40	.40 inches
401	.401 inches
405	.405 inches
41	.41 inches
44	.44 inches
444	.444 inches
45	.45 inches
455	.455 inches
458	.458 inches
460	.460 inches
50	.50 inches
54	.54 inches
58	.58 inches
60	.60 inches
1000	Undetermined whether .38 or .357
1001	Small, unspecified (≤ 32)
1002	Medium, unspecified (>32 , $<10\text{mm}/.40$)
1003	Large, unspecified ($\geq 10\text{mm}/.40$)
6666	Other
8888	Not applicable (shotgun or unknown gun type)
9999	Unknown

Gauge

10	10 gauge
12	12 gauge
16	16 gauge
20	20 gauge
28	28 gauge
410	.410
666	Other
888	Not applicable
999	Unknown

Data Standards or Guidelines

NVISS

Firearm serial number: Serial

Name	Definition
Serial	Serial number of the firearm that was used to inflict the injury

Uses

The serial number of the firearm can be used to trace its use in an incident from the first purchaser to the gun dealer from which it was purchased. The serial number is considered a local data element and is not forwarded to the national database.

Discussion

The serial number for firearms is not unique across gun manufacturers and is not designed to identify the type or characteristics of the firearm. Serial numbers are used to trace firearms. This data element is coded exactly as the serial number recorded on the firearm. Serial numbers can include both letters and numbers.

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field length	Priority	Primacy
Serial	Firearm serial number:	Weapon	Text	12	LR/LR/LR	LAB/CME/PR

Response Options:

Serial

666666666666 Serial number totally or partially obliterated

999999999999 Unknown

Weapon/CME

Firearm importer's name: ImpNm

Firearm importer's city: ImpCt

Firearm importer's state: ImpSt

Firearm stolen: Stolen

See Weapon/ATF Element for information regarding variable(s) appearing above.

YOUTH ACCESS

Gun owner: Owner

Gun stored loaded: Loaded

Gun stored locked: Locked

Youth gun access narrative: YthNarr

Name	Definition
Owner	Owner of the firearm
Loaded	Was the firearm stored loaded?
Locked	Was the firearm stored locked?
YthNarr	Narrative providing details about youth access to the firearm used to inflict the injury

Uses

This set of variables can be used to better understand how youths gain access to the guns they use to injure themselves or others.

Discussion

The Youth Access variables are to be completed on guns used by youths 17 years of age and younger who shoot themselves or another person in the incident. In the narrative, include a brief summary of where and from whom the firearm was obtained and whether the youth had authorized access to the firearm.

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field length	Priority	Primacy
Owner	Gun owner:	Weapon	Number	2	LR/LR	CME/PR
Loaded	Gun stored loaded:	Weapon	Number	1	LR/LR	CME/PR
Locked	Gun stored locked:	Weapon	Number	1	LR/LR	CME/PR
YthNarr	Youth gun access narrative:	Weapon	Text	100	O/O	CME/PR

Response Options:

Owner

- 1 Self
- 2 Parent
- 3 Other family member
- 6 Friend/acquaintance
- 7 Stranger
- 66 Other (specify in youth access narrative)
- 99 Unknown

Weapon/CME

Loaded

- 0 Unloaded
- 1 Loaded
- 6 Other (specify in youth access narrative)
- 8 Not applicable
- 9 Unknown

Locked

- 0 Not locked
- 1 Locked (stored with trigger lock on or in locked enclosure like closet)
- 6 Other (specify in youth access narrative)
- 8 Not applicable
- 9 Unknown

YthNarr

Data Standards or Guidelines

NVISS

TYPE OF POISON

Type of poison: Poison

Name of poison: PoisonTxt

Code for poison: PCode

Name	Definition
Poison	Broad type of poison used to inflict injury
PoisonTxt	Name of poison used to inflict injury if PCode is “other”
PCode	Code for poison used to inflict injury

Uses

These variables describe the types of poisons used in violent deaths, especially in suicides and deaths of undetermined intent.

Discussion

Only poisons known or suspected to be involved should be included in the incident. For a person who ingests multiple drugs, each drug constitutes a separate “weapon” record. Using poison codes avoids problems with variant spellings of the same drug and variant names for the same chemical. Poison codes (“Pcodes”) have been assigned only to the more common poisons, primarily drugs. A list of the poison codes can be found in the coding training binder. They have not yet been incorporated into the software.

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field length	Priority	Primacy
Poison	Type of poison:	Weapon	Number	2	LR/LR	CME/PR
PoisonTxt	Name of poison:	Weapon	Text	50	LR	CME
PCode	Code for poison:	Weapon	Number	5	LR	CME

Response Options:

Poison

- 1 Street/recreational drugs
- 2 Alcohol
- 3 Pharmaceuticals – prescription
- 4 Pharmaceuticals – over-the-counter
- 5 Pharmaceuticals – unknown
- 6 Carbon monoxide or other gas, vapor
- 66 Other poison (e.g., rat poison, insecticide, lye)
- 88 Not applicable (not a poisoning)
- 99 Unknown

Weapon/CME/Poison

PoisonTxt

PCode

22222 Alcohol/alcoholic beverages

66666 Other

99999 Unknown

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF POISON

Patient drug obtained for: Patnt

Size of pill (mg): Psize

Lower bound, number of pills ingested: Plow

Upper bound, number of pills ingested: Phigh

Estimated amount of liquid poison ingested (ml): Vol

Carbon monoxide source, if CO: COSrc

Name	Definition
Patnt	Who was the patient that the drug was obtained for?
Psize	Size of the pill ingested in mg
Plow	Lower estimate of the number of pills ingested
Phigh	Upper estimate of the number of pills ingested
Vol	Estimate of the amount of liquid poison ingested in ml
COSrc	Source of the carbon monoxide

Uses

This set of variables can be used to better understand how the victim or suspect obtained the poison and the quantity of poison used to injure themselves or others. The information may be used to modify drug packaging and prescription practices to prevent suicides.

Discussion

The “size of pill” and “number of pills” variables apply only to medications. The “amount of liquid” variable can apply to medications, household chemicals, agricultural products, etc. None of these variables apply to medications delivered as aerosols or sprays. If the number of pills ingested is known, enter that number for both the lower and upper bounds on the number of pills ingested.

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field length	Priority	Primacy
Patnt	Patient drug obtained for:	Weapon	Number	2	LR	CME
Psize	Size of pill (mg):	Weapon	Number	4	LR	CME
Plow	Lower bound, number of pills ingested:	Weapon	Number	3	LR	CME
Phigh	Upper bound, number of pills ingested:	Weapon	Number	3	LR	CME
Vol	Estimated amount of liquid poison ingested (ml):	Weapon	Number	4	LR	CME
COSrc	Carbon monoxide source, if CO:	Weapon	Number	1	LR	CME

Response Options:

Patnt

- 2 Spouse
- 1 Self
- 3 Ex-spouse
- 4 Girlfriend or boyfriend
- 7 Ex-girlfriend or ex-boyfriend
- 8 Girlfriend or boyfriend, unspecified whether curre
- 10 Parent
- 11 Child
- 12 Sibling
- 13 Grandchild
- 14 Grandparent
- 15 In-law
- 16 Stepparent
- 17 Stepchild
- 18 Child of suspect's boyfriend/girlfriend
- 19 Intimate partner of suspect's parent
- 29 Other family member (e.g., cousin, uncle)
- 30 Babysitter
- 31 Acquaintance
- 32 Friend
- 33 Roommate (not intimate partner)
- 34 Schoolmate
- 35 Current or former work relationship
- 44 Other person, known to victim
- 45 Stranger
- 99 Relationship unknown

Psize

Plow

Phigh

Vol

COSrc

1 Car, truck, bus

2 Other

8 Not applicable

9 Unknown

Weapon (Police Report)

Firearm information known: Fknown

Gun recovered: GunRec

Bullet recovered: Bullet

Casing recovered: CaseRem

Firearm type: FType

Other firearm type text: TyTxt

Make or NCIC code: Make

Other firearm make text: MkTxt

Firearm model: Model

Firearm model text: MoTxt

Cartridge specification: Cartr

Firearm caliber: Calib

Firearm gauge: Gauge

Firearm serial number: Serial

See Weapon/CME Elements for information regarding variable(s) appearing above.

Firearm importer's name: ImpNm

Firearm importer's city: ImpCt

Firearm importer's state: ImpSt

Firearm stolen: Stolen

See Weapon/ATF Element for information regarding variable(s) appearing above.

Gun owner: Owner

Gun stored loaded: Loaded

Gun stored locked: Locked

Youth gun access narrative: YthNarr

Type of poison: Poison

See Weapon/CME Element for information regarding variable(s) appearing above.

Firearm trace attempted: Trace

Name	Definition
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Trace	Identifies whether an ATF trace was attempted on the firearm(s) involved in the case
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Uses

This data element will be used by sites working with a local police agency and the ATF to receive trace results on guns used in fatalities. It will identify whether a gun was submitted for a trace and, if submitted, whether the trace succeeded or failed.

Discussion

None.

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field length	Priority	Primacy
Trace	Firearm trace attempted:	Weapon	Number	1	O	PR

Response Options:

Trace

- 0 Firearm manuf. Before 1969
- 1 Gun not submitted for trace
- 2 Gun was traced
- 3 Trace not successful
- 8 Not applicable
- 9 Unknown

Weapon (Crime Laboratory)

Firearm information known: Fknown

Gun recovered: GunRec

Bullet recovered: Bullet

Casing recovered: CaseRem

Firearm type: FType

Other firearm type text: TyTxt

Make or NCIC code: Make

Other firearm make text: MkTxt

Firearm model: Model

Firearm model text: MoTxt

Cartridge specification: Cartr

Firearm caliber: Calib

Firearm gauge: Gauge

Firearm serial number: Serial

See Weapon/CME Element for information regarding variable(s) appearing above.

Firearm importer's name: ImpNm

Firearm importer's city: ImpCt

Firearm importer's state: ImpSt

Firearm stolen: Stolen

See Weapon/ATF Element for information regarding variable(s) appearing above.